

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 5 **Fall Announcement # 5, District 2 Commercial Period 2** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Yukon Area began Fall Season management in the lower river districts on July 16. Based on the 2013 summer chum salmon run, the projected fall chum salmon run size is expected to be greater than 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest.

Fall chum salmon have been entering Yukon River at a steady rate although the first pulse has not been observed. Through July 22, the cumulative fall chum salmon passage past Pilot Station sonar is 34,923 fish, which is below the historical median of 47,670 for that date.

District Y-2

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District Y-2 on Wednesday, July 24 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period. Gillnets are restricted to a maximum mesh size of 6 inches or less. No Chinook salmon can be sold during this commercial opening. Fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. **Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.**

Preliminary results from the first fall season District Y-2 commercial opening on July 22 indicate a harvest of 6,414 fall chum salmon from 106 permit holders.

District Y-2 commercial fishermen are requested not to fish on the south bank of Yukon River in front of the Pilot Station sonar site from an ADF&G buoy just upstream of the sonar to an ADF&G marker 500 yards downstream. Commercial fishing in this area interferes with sonar operations and can affect fish counts. The department thanks commercial fishermen for their continued cooperation.

In District Y-2 subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishing in District Y-2 will close at 2 a.m. Wednesday, July 24 and will reopen at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, July 25.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or toll free at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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